

From: [redacted]

Sent: Tuesday, December 26, 2006 6:32 PM

To: Taskforcecomments

Subject: ID Theft Task Force Comment

I strongly believe that one factor contributing to the increase of identity theft is the recent policy instituted by the post office requiring urban and suburban neighborhoods to place their mailboxes right out on the street, deliberately making them easily accessible by car.

Our mailbox has been vandalized frequently by someone driving an SUV. During these vandalizations, our mail is scattered all up and down the street. Many acquaintances of mine have reported subtle thefts from their mail box, involving such items as checks sent by credit card companies. Since residents don't know that these checks have been mailed, they do not know they have been stolen from their mailboxes, until they have been used.

All kinds of information comes to us in the mail: driver's licenses, social security information, medicare information, credit card promotions and statements, bank statements, IRS communiques. All anyone has to do to acquire all that is to drive down the street and reach out of the car. It should be the right of every American to have a secure mailbox, inaccessible to the public.

We have tried locks on the mailbox, a welded hood over it, concrete pilings--nothing works, because our mailbox hangs so far out into the street. This is an area where the federal government can certainly exercise some control--but I doubt that it will. I have taken up this matter with the postal service, which reacts with complete and utter indifference. However, as long as our mailboxes are hanging out into the street, identity theft will be easy business.

Unless the government is willing to listen and go to some trouble to clear up these easy ways of accessing information, it should not pretend to ask for input.